

2012 Junior Investigator Awards: Building Research Capacity for PHSSR

**November 13, 2012
Applicant Web Conference
2:30 – 3:30 PM Eastern**

**National Coordinating Center for Public Health
Services & Systems Research**

University of Kentucky, College of Public Health



A Few Technical Notes

- A recording of the webinar will be posted to the program website:
<http://www.publichealthsystems.org/awards.aspx>
- We will answer general questions at the end of the presentation.
- Please submit your questions to the presenters in the Q&A panel in the lower right corner of your screen.
- To prevent any audio issues, all participants' lines will be muted.

Agenda and Presenters

1. Program Purpose & Overview – Cynthia Lamberth

- Building Researcher Capacity
- Program Overview
- Public Health PBRN Collaboration

2. Program Information – Jay Swacker

- Eligibility Criteria
- Selection Criteria
- Deliverables
- Key Dates and Deadlines

3. PHSSR Overview – F. Douglas Scutchfield

- Scope of Public Health Services & Systems Research
- PHSSR Research Agenda Focus Areas

4. Question and Discussion Session

Program Purpose & Overview – Cynthia Lamberth

Goal: Building Researcher Capacity

To support the growth of the PHSSR evidence base and its impact, the field needs a large community of researchers who:

- Understand the nuances of public health services within communities
- Apply advanced methodologies to develop evidence for policy and practice
- Employ varied, innovative dissemination methods to influence key stakeholders in Public Health systems

PHSSR Definition

Public Health Services and Systems Research is the field of study that examines the organization, financing and delivery of public health services within communities and the impact of those services

Program Purpose & Overview

The PHSSR Junior Investigator Awards program offers funding for Doctoral Candidate and Junior Faculty applicants to conduct small-scale or pilot PHSSR research projects working closely with a PHSSR mentor.

Awardees will join a growing community of researchers who collaborate to improve research design, methodology and dissemination. The NCC supports this community by providing technical assistance, hosting regular calls and bringing Junior Investigators to the annual PHSSR Keeneland Conference

Up to ten, \$10,000 fixed price awards will be available in this funding cycle.

Each award will be for 12 months.

Up to five of the awards will be mentored by researchers from Public Health Practice-Based Research Networks

Program Purpose & Overview

What is the Public Health PBRN Program?

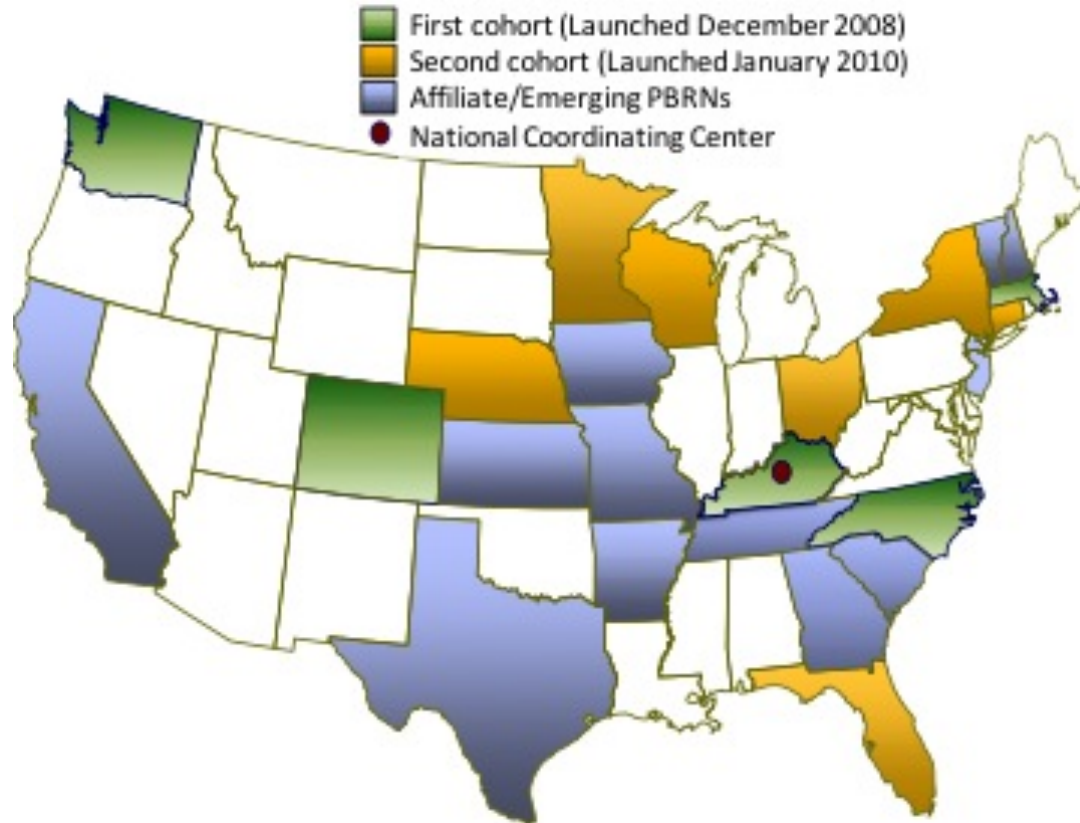
The Public Health Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRN) Program is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that supports the development of research networks for studying the comparative effectiveness, efficiency and equity of public health strategies in real-world practice settings.

Why do we encourage Junior Investigators to collaborate with Public Health PBRNs?

Collaborating with a Public Health PBRN affords junior investigators the opportunity to work with mentors and organizations dedicated to using research to improve Public Health practice and policy-making—one of the main goals of the NCC.

Program Purpose & Overview

Current Public Health Practice-Based Research Network Sites



Program Information – Jay Swacker

Eligibility Criteria – Doctoral Candidates

Doctoral candidate applicants must:

- Have completed all the necessary prerequisites to begin the research project, including being advanced to doctoral candidacy,
- Have the written support of the chair of their dissertation, capstone or equivalent, including a commitment to completing research in the specified PHSSR area of inquiry,
- Have a U.S.-based college or university agree to receive and administer the award,
- Demonstrate the ability to complete the research deliverables in the 12-month award period and submit a peer-reviewed manuscript for publication within 12 months after the end of the award,
- Work with a PHSSR expert mentor for the project, to be documented by a letter of support and curriculum vitae from the mentor.

Program Information

Eligibility Criteria – Junior Faculty

Junior faculty applicants must:

- Be within three years of their initial faculty appointment,
- Have a U.S.-based college or university agree to receive and administer the award,
- Demonstrate the ability to complete the research deliverables in the 12-month award period and submit a peer-reviewed manuscript for publication within 12 months after the end of the award,
- Work with a PHSSR expert mentor for the project, to be documented by a letter of support and curriculum vitae from the mentor

Program Information

Deliverables (During Award Period)

During the award period, all awardees must:

- Complete the project research plan and literature review, receive approval from the PHSSR mentor, and submit a copy to the assigned NCC contact. Any changes to the originally approved project scope and design must be discussed and approved in writing by the mentor and NCC contact;
- Attend the 2013 PHSSR Keeneland Conference to be held **April 8-11, 2013** in Lexington, Kentucky, to present a progress report of the study and participate in awardee workshop;
- Participate in awardee webinars and regular virtual meetings hosted by NCC;
- Submit timely information to NCC for progress reports to RWJF, as requested;
- Prepare a proposal summary to be submitted to a specific future funding opportunity, as identified in the Junior Investigator Award Proposal
- **Junior Faculty** awardees must generate a systematic review of published literature related to their PHSSR research project

Program Information

Deliverables (Post Award)

During or after the award period awardees should also:

- Submit an article with preliminary findings to the on-line publication, [*Frontiers in PHSSR*](#),
- Provide documentation of applications to present research findings at a minimum of one national or regional conference other than the Keeneland Conference,
- Participate in awardee learning opportunities and activities for former awardees hosted by the NCC,
- Submit timely information to NCC for RWJF sponsor progress reports, as requested,
- Submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal on the research findings within 12 months of the end of the award period,
- Submit a research proposal to a specific PHSSR funding opportunity as identified above,
- Document additional methods of dissemination to public health practitioners and policy-makers.

Program Information

Key Dates & Deadlines

December 5, 2012 – Applications Due

January 16, 2013 – Finalists Notified

February/March 2013 – Awards Begin

April 8-11, 2013 – PHSSR Keeneland Conference

Overview of PHSSR - F. Douglas Scutchfield

Public Health Services and Systems Research is the field of study that examines the organization, financing and delivery of public health services within communities and the impact of those services

Why Study Public Health Delivery?

“The Committee had hoped to provide specific guidance elaborating on the types and levels of workforce, infrastructure, related resources, and financial investments necessary to ensure the availability of essential public health services to all of the nation’s communities. However, such evidence is limited, and there is no agenda or support for this type of research, despite the critical need for such data to promote and protect the nation’s health.”

—Institute of Medicine, 2003



Why Study Public Health Delivery?

For every \$100 in federal health research spending, <\$1 is devoted to delivery system research.

Woolf SH, Johnson RE. 2005. The break-even point: when medical advances are less important than improving the fidelity with which they are delivered. *Ann Fam Med*. 2005;3(6):545-52.

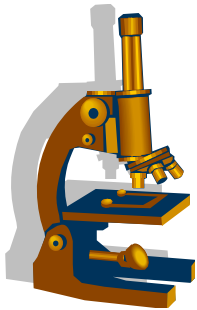
PHSSR in the Scientific Continuum

Intervention Research



Services/Systems Research

- What works – proof of efficacy
 - Controlled trials
 - Categorical services
 - *Guide to Community Preventive Services*



- How to implement in the real-world
 - Funding levels & mechanisms
 - Organizational structures
 - Workforce & staffing patterns
 - Info & comm. infrastructure
 - Law and policy
 - Integration with health care
 - Reach to at-risk populations
 - Quality/effectiveness
 - Cost/Efficiency/ROI
 - Equity/Disparities
 - Population impact



National Agenda for PHSSR

Proposed projects should address research questions identified in the *National Agenda for PHSSR*:

- Public Health Workforce – Composition, Capacity & Retention
- Public Health System Organization and Structure – Regionalization, Efficient Delivery & Meaningful Collaboration
- Public Health Financing and Economics – Increasing Financial Data Capture & Harmonization
- Public Health Information Technology and Communications – Identifying Best Practices in Data Collection, Analysis and Capacity

[See: *http://www.publichealthsystems.org/resources*](http://www.publichealthsystems.org/resources)

National Agenda for PHSSR

Focus Area #1: Workforce

- What is the current composition of the public health workforce?
- What are some examples of optimal staffing patterns?
- How can we improve recruitment, retention and training?
- How can we maintain workforce capacity?
- How will credentialing impact public health?

Focus Area #2: Structure and Organization

- What is the best organizational structure for efficient service delivery?
- How does regionalization affect health outcomes?
- How do we build meaningful collaborations for service delivery and positive health outcomes?
- How do organizational characteristics of health agencies affect their choices in an adverse economic climate?

National Agenda for PHSSR

Focus Area #3: Financing

- How can we best capture finance data?
- What is the impact of financial and economic characteristics of health agencies on health outcomes?
- How does the legal infrastructure influence public health agency financial status?
- Are there benefits from financial data harmonization through practice organizations?

Focus Area #4: Information Technology

- Can health information technology positively impact health status?
- How can we improve the capacity to collect and analyze data?
- What data collection/use practices best support health outcomes?

Question and Discussion Session

Please use the Q&A Panel in the lower right corner of your screen to send a general question to our presenters.

We will try to answer all questions in the remaining time, but we cannot guarantee all questions will be addressed.

If you have a specific question about your eligibility, proposed research plan or mentoring needs, please email us at PHSSR212@uky.edu.

We will update the Frequently Asked Questions page on the program's website with questions and answers from today's session.

For more information contact:

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